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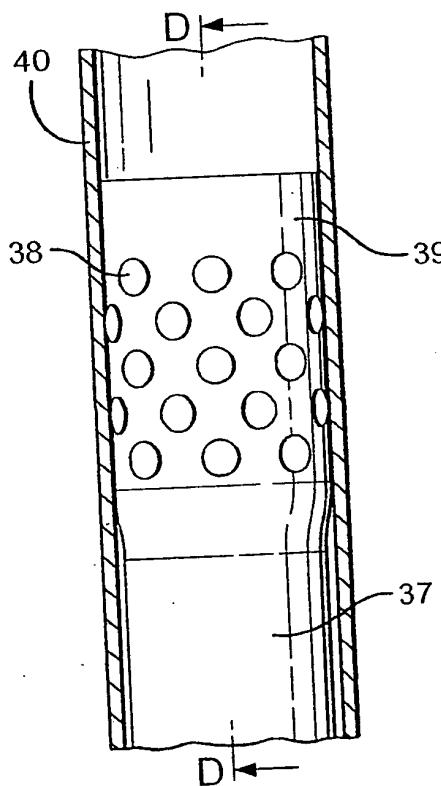
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(54) Title: NON-THREADED EXPANDABLE PIPE CONNECTION SYSTEM



(57) **Abstract:** A method for connecting tubular elements (37, 40), particularly pipe for strings to be used in oil and gas wells, comprises: (A) locating a portion of a first tubular element (37) within a portion of a second tubular element (40), (B) expanding the portion of the first tubular element and/or compressing the portion of the second tubular element to form a connection resulting from the interference between the external surface of the portion of the first tubular element and the internal surface of the portion of the second tubular element, in which, prior to assembly, one or both of the external surface of the portion of the first tubular element and the internal surface of the portion of the second tubular element is/are at least partially coated by plasma spraying with hard angular material. Preferably, protuberances (38) of plasma-sprayed hard angular material are formed on at least one of the mating surfaces of the connection.



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